



## **Société d'histoire de Georgeville**

## **Georgeville Historical Society**

**Newsletter – Fall 2014**

### **NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

The following new officers and directors were elected at the annual general meeting of the Georgeville Historical Society this past summer:-

Adelaide Atkin – Member Emeritus  
John Boynton – Member Emeritus  
Deane Moffat – President  
Judy Bachelder – Vice President  
Christian Hurlow – Secretary  
Lise Godbout – Treasurer  
Valerie Pasztor – Past President  
David Cox – Newsletter Editor  
Martin Bosch – Director  
Aileen Desbarats – Director  
Heather Kovacs – Director  
Joyce McTavish – Director  
Stephen Moore, Director  
John Scott – Director  
Annick Valiquette – Director  
Lorne Waid Jr. – Director

### **LE PRIX NATHAN BEACH**

Le prix Nathan Beach a été présenté à Elaisne et Robert Coallier par la mairesse Francine Caron Markwell lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle de la Société historique de Georgeville.

La SHG a créé le Prix Nathan Beach pour rendre hommage aux personnes qui ont apporté une contribution exceptionnelle à la préservation du patrimoine bâti de notre communauté. La mairesse Caron Markwell a souligné que les Coallier ont apporté grâce et distinction à leur renouvellement de Beechwood, la ferme Nathan Beach. « Qui parmi nous, en passant devant la ferme Beach sur le chemin Magoon Point, anciennement la ferme Evans, n'a pas ressenti de la joie à la vue de la magnifique reproduction de la grange Nathan Beach », a demandé la mairesse. Les Coallier méritent grandement cette récompense.



The Nathan Beach award was presented to Elaisne and Robert Coallier by Mayor Francine Caron Markwell at the annual general meeting of the Georgeville Historical Society.

The GHS created the Nathan Beach Award to honour people who have made an outstanding contribution to preserving the built heritage of our community. Mayor Caron Markwell pointed out that the Coalliers have brought grace and distinction to their renewal of Beechwood, the Nathan Beach farm. "Who among us -- passing the Beach farm on Magoon Point Road, in more recent years, the Evans farm -- has not felt their spirits lifted by the sight of the magnificently recreated Nathan Beach barn", she asked. They richly deserve this award.

### A DATE TO REMEMBER

The annual Remembrance Day ceremony will take place at the Georgeville Cenotaph at 11 am on November 11.

## SUMMER EVENTS

### CANADA DAY PARADE

The GHS float, depicting the office of Dr. William Keyes, won second prize for presentation at the Canada Day parade. An article on the life of Dr. Keyes -- "Dr. Keyes: Saint? Or Sinner?" -- by the Rev. Dr. Deane Moffat will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.



## PHOTOFAIR



Aileen Desbarats discusses the Photofair event with Jacques Valiquette.

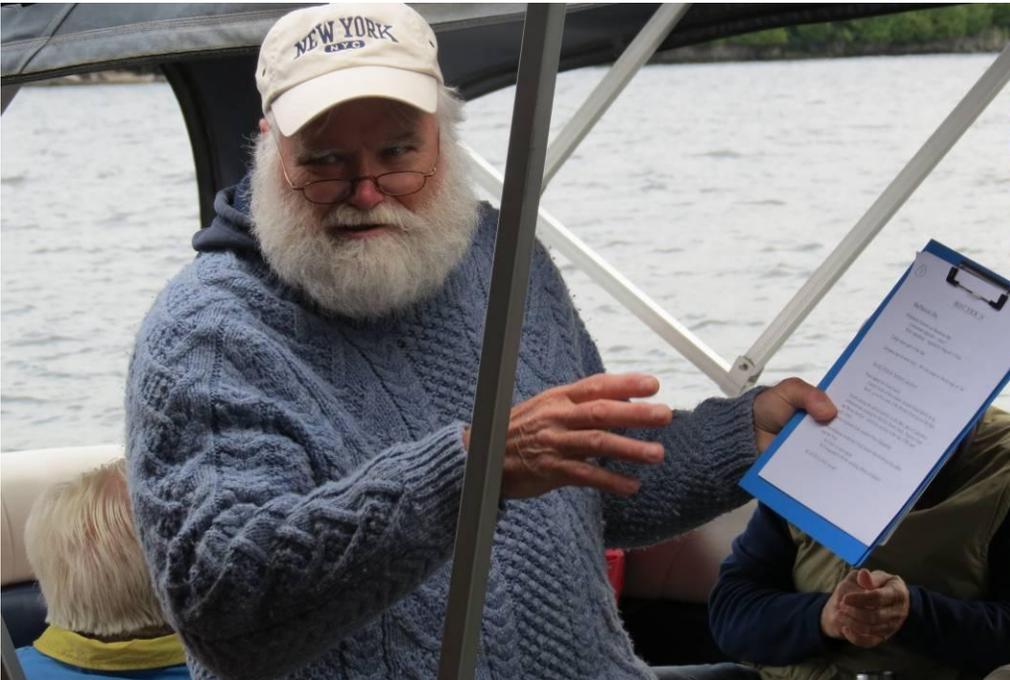
Aileen Desbarats, together with a team of volunteers, organized a highly successful Photofair held at the Community Hall in July. The event was so successful, in fact, it was extended for an extra day. People had been asked to bring their old photos of village life, up to and including the bicentennial events of 1997. These were to be scanned and added to the GHS digital photo archive.

The response was impressive and, at times, overwhelming. Judy Bachelder, Maureen Cameron and Gus Desbarats scanned over 850 photos and more remain to be dealt with. Information about the photos was recorded by other volunteers. As entertainment, and as a background to this activity, Elsie Sullivan and Jacques Valiquette prepared an enticing display of vintage photographs on panels and albums on tables in the hall.



Visitors leisurely toured the room. A “loop” of assorted old photos played continuously on a large screen, captivating and amusing young and old. There was also a photographic tribute to the late Mary Landry and the late Art Friedman, serious photographers of the Georgeville scene in recent years.

## BOAT TOUR



Almost 40 people in four vessels participated in the August historical boat tour along approximately three miles of the lakeshore south of Georgeville. Stephen Moore provided commentary on historical sites as well as some contemporary locations.

### **NINE LOCAL MEN SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

(Part 2)

This year is, of course, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. In Part 1 of this series we pointed out that of the more than 60,000 Canadians who sacrificed their lives, nine were local young men. We see the names of eight of them on the Georgeville cenotaph. And while we recognize their bravery and sacrifice, most of us really know little or nothing of their lives or their military service. Here is some background on more of these local heroes.



## **Allan Routledge**

The Routledge name is known to many in Georgeville since the family are descendents of Sir Hugh Allan, the prominent Scottish-Canadian shipping magnate, financier and original owner of the Bellmere estate.

Allan Routledge attended Bishop's College School and was probably a member of the school's Officer Training Corps. At the age of 19, on May 15, 1915, he enlisted as a private in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was soon commissioned as Lieutenant, partly as a result of previously serving in the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Highland Regiment, a militia unit known today as the Black Watch.



He soon went overseas with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, CEF, and fought at the Battle of Courcellette in France. According to the battlefield War Diary he took part in an attack on Germans launched on September 15, 1916.

“When the second wave left our parapet – about 4.55 pm – the enemy was plainly seen standing almost shoulder-to-shoulder in his trench. There was no artillery or machine gun fire from the flank to keep him down

and the unit attacking on our right was not then in sight.”

The diary concluded: “Lieuts. J.K. Matheson on the left and S.J. Mathewson on the right managed to get within 100 yards of the enemy trench when they were the only two left. The nearest to them were dead and wounded about twenty-five yards in their rear.”

Lieut. Routledge was mortally wounded in the battle and died in No. 20 General Hospital, Etaples, France, on September 23, 1916, at the age of 21. He was cited for the Military Cross in the following words: "This officer gave repeated evidence of great gallantry, both in the Ypres Salient and in the action in which he was wounded. He had been recommended for a Military Cross before word of his death was received." He was, in fact, "mentioned in despatches" and buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery.

## **Ernest and John King**

The brothers were the sons of Col. William King, a retired military surgeon, who had lived with his family in Montreal and moved to Georgeville in July, 1912. Most of his family was grown up and working away from home so the brothers knew little of Georgeville and the village knew little of them.

The oldest son, John, born March 19, 1888, enlisted in the 117<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, in March of 1916. In France, he joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CEF. He was “killed in action” on April 14, 1917, in the trenches east of Mont Foret, and buried at the Bois-Carre British Cemetery, Thelus, France.

Brother Ernest King enlisted with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion April 12, 1914. He had previously served with the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Canadian

Militia). At the age of 23, he had risen to the rank of Company Sergeant Major. He died of gun shot wounds to the head during the final stages of the first battle of the Somme on October 2, 1916, still serving with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and was buried at the Contay British Cemetery in Contay, France. Little is known of the brothers' experience in battle because no battlefield war diaries appear to exist for either of them.

### **E.G.T. Penny**



Trevor Penny was the son of Goff Penny who owned the estate named “Fairwaters”, just North of the village. Also with a home in Westmount, his connection to Georgeville was, perhaps, only as a summer visitor. Ten years older than Allan Routledge, he had embarked on a career in law when he

enlisted in July, 1915, as a Lieutenant in the 117th Battalion, which trained in Sherbrooke. He had previously been in McGill University's Officer Training Corps and had served in the Militia with the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Highland Regiment.

Overseas, he joined the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Montreal Regiment, and was killed in action on August 8, 1918, shortly before the end of the war. The battlefield War Diary recounts that the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion attacked at dawn on the morning of August 8 on a two Company front. “The barrage was excellent and the Boche, taken absolutely by surprise, at first put up very little resistance, but as the advance progressed, his machine gunners put up a very fine fight and caused our men a number of casualties,” it records.

The Diary continued: “Early in the day, five very gallant officers were killed. Lieut. E.G.T. Penny died attacking a machine gun nest single-handed.”

Trevor Penny had been wounded at Vimy in April, 1917, was awarded the Military Cross and promoted to Captain.

He was buried at the Toronto military cemetery in Demuin, France, which was begun by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Battalion (Toronto Regiment) and used by other Canadian units for the burial of their dead.

(I am indebted to Lorne Waid Jr for much of the historical military information contained in this article. Editor)

**Stories and photos for future newsletters are always welcome.**

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This newsletter was prepared by David R. Cox. Photographs by Judy Bachelder and Christian Hurlow.

